

Please amend claim 11 as follows:

11 (Amended). A method comprising:

arranging an array of display elements to form a flat-panel display, the display elements each having a front surface that emits light and a back surface that does not substantially emit light; and
securing a strap to said back surfaces along the length of seams between the adjacent display elements.

Please amend claim 17 as follows:

17 (Amended). A method comprising:

configuring a flat-panel display from an array of display elements, each of the display elements having a front surface that emits light and a back surface that does not substantially emit light;

fastening straps along the length of seams on said back surfaces of the adjacent display elements; and

redistributing a stress placed on said front surface of a flat-panel display to said straps.

REMARKS

All of the claims have been amended to call for straps that are on the back surface of display elements and extend along the seam length.

None of the cited references suggest extending any type of strap along the length of the seam. For example, the Nicholson patent cited simply uses a device which attaches connectors and this device happens to cross the seam at one point. Thus, Nicholson is distinguished over the claims as amended.

The patent to Kikuno teaches a support for a threaded display element. However, that support is not attached on the seam as most clearly is shown in Figures 12 and 13 where the element 41 is in-board of the seam between display elements. Moreover, the element 41 is not positioned on the seam, but rather is spaced therefrom by elements 21 and 22. Therefore, its ability to act as a stiffening element is significantly reduced.